

- 8.6 (6 on bluebells), Garth near Llan gammarch; Gorse Bank, 8.6 (two on clover), 13.6 (2), 16.6; Cym-gn Fawr, 600 ft., 12.6.
- CARDIGANSHIRE. Aberystwyth, 4.6, hundreds on flowers, none left by 6.6; Coedmore, 9.8, 13.8, 16.8, 26.8, 28.8.
- DENBIGHSHIRE. Abergele, 6.6(2), 9.8(4), 15.8(3); Llandulas beach, 15.6 (2).
- MERIONETHSHIRE. Dolgelly, 8.6 (6 seen over two acres).
- MONMOUTHSHIRE. Peterstone sea wall, 7.6; Wentwood, 10.6; Newport docks, 20.8; Usk, 2.9 (2 on buddleia).
- PEMBROKESHIRE. Moylgrove, 26.8 (2), 28.8; Martingrove and Marloes, 11.10 (2).
- RADNORSHIRE. Coles Hill nr. Presteigne. 1097 ft., 12.6.

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SOME NOTES ON *EREAATOPHYES ALEATRIX* DIAKONOFF (LEP.: OECOPHORIDAE) — In May 1973, a Dutch collector caught a specimen of the family Oecophoridae along a road south of the town of Nijmegen (Province of Gelderland), which appeared to be new to science, and which Dr. A. Diakonoff described (in *Ent. Ber.*, Amst., 35: 187-189) as *Eratophyes aleatrix*. For several years after no other specimen was observed and the biology of the species remained unknown, until by pure chance this gap in our knowledge was filled. Brother V. Lefeber, a keen hymenopterist, had collected in Limburg for several years dead wood from which to breed Hymenoptera, and from old birch wood not only did these insects appear, but also a number of *E. aleatrix* (cf. Diakonoff and Lefeber, *Ent. Ber.*, Amst., 40: 38-40). It became clear, therefore, that the *E. aleatrix* has the same biology as many other species of the family, and in later years *aleatrix* was also bred from willow branches, so that it is not restricted in its choice of wood.

In April 1980, accompanied by Mr. L. I. P. van Aartsen, I collected pieces of decaying wood from dead birch trees with a diameter of 10-15cm., taking care not to collect wood inhabited by ants as they eat everything alive they meet. I selected pieces with the bark still attached, although this was sometimes as thin as paper, owing to the long time the wood had lain on the ground. I kept the wood in a bag with a net on top and closed by a zip-fastener, and placed it in a wheelbarrow in the shed. During sunny periods, the wheelbarrow was placed outside to expose the bag to the sun. I was very lucky, for in the latter part of May and in June a number of *aleatrix* appeared; also some *Oecophora bractella* (L.) and *Nemapogon personella* (Pierce & Metcalfe) made their appearance, as well as of course numbers of beetles, flies and wasps.

The species must lead a very concealed life, which is no doubt the reason for its late discovery. Therefore, I should recommend British lepidopterists to try their luck by collecting dead wood in the spring, and even if they do not obtain *Eratophyes aleatrix*, there is of course always a real chance of other good species. The moth is very beautiful, and its discovery in Britain would be well worth attempting. — J. B. WOLSCHRÛN, Beatrixweg 8c, 8181 Le Herde, Holland.